



Speech by
H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha
Secretary-General of the
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
on the
“International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”

United Nations Headquarters – Geneva

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Your Excellency Mrs. Tatiana Valovaya,
Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, I am pleased to express the OIC's appreciation to the United Nations and its various committees and organs for their tireless efforts to strengthen international solidarity with the Palestinian people and to support their just struggle to regain all their legitimate and inalienable rights.

We meet again on this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, the only people on Earth who are still subjected to colonial occupation, ethnic cleansing, forced displacement, and daily persecution in full view of the international community, to reaffirm our unwavering position and absolute support for their just and continuous struggle in defense of their territory, sanctities, and dignity, and in pursuit of freedom and self-determination.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting of ours is of utmost importance, in view of the unprecedented Israeli military aggression on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially the Gaza Strip, which has led to the martyrdom and injury of tens of thousands of civilians, most of whom are women and children.

This in addition to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of families, and the deliberate destruction of homes, hospitals, places of worship, schools, and infrastructures, in flagrant violation of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The OIC has confirmed its position in this regard in the Resolution issued by the joint Arab-Islamic Summit held in Riyadh on November 11, 2023, regarding the danger of the continuation and expansion of

this open Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, which threatens security and stability in the entire region.

It has emphasized the need for the international community to assume its responsibilities towards fully and immediately putting an end to this aggression, being a war crime and a crime against humanity, ensuring delivery of humanitarian aid and essential needs to the Gaza strip, and providing international protection for the Palestinian people.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The OIC stresses that the absence of justice and international legitimacy, and the adoption of double standards, have encouraged Israel, the occupying power, to persist in its crimes in all impunity, and have contributed to protracting this conflict, which undermines global peace and security.

In this regard, it calls for activating the available international judicial mechanisms and the process of international criminal justice in order to deter the Israeli occupation, prevent it from committing more crimes, and ensure its accountability for its past and current violations.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We, at the OIC, reaffirm our absolute rejection of the criminal plans of Israel, the occupying power, aimed at the forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

We reassert that the territory of the State of Palestine occupied since 1967, which encompasses the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the occupied city of *Al-Quds*, constitutes a single geographical unit, and that the perpetration of such a heinous act will have dire repercussions on the entire region.

We also warn of the danger of continuing the Israeli attacks on the holy places in the occupied city of *Al-Quds*, especially the blessed *Al-Aqsa* Mosque.

In this regard, we reaffirm the status of the city of *Al-Quds* as an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, and the necessity of preserving the legal and historical status of the holy places therein, and rejecting any illegal measures aimed at changing the city's geographical and demographic status and isolating it from its Palestinian surroundings.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have followed with great concern the continued escalation of attacks, crimes, incitement, and organized terrorism practiced by extremist settlers throughout the occupied West Bank.

We have warned, in various international fora, of the danger involved in these attacks which forebode increased violence and tension. In this regard, we call for turning the international condemnation of the Israeli settlement policy into practical and effective measures to implement relevant UN resolutions, foremost among which UNSC Resolution 2334, as part of supporting peace efforts and opportunities.

To conclude, the OIC reaffirms its firm and absolute support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and reiterates its call on key international actors to strengthen joint efforts to launch a political process, under multilateral international auspices, conducive to ending the Israeli occupation and establishing the independent State of Palestine on the borders of July 4, 1967, with East *Al-Quds* as its capital, based on the relevant UN Resolution and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Thank you for your attention.